

The News is the Official Paper of the Board of Public Instruction of DeSoto County

the County Commissioners Reports and Proceedings.

PRESIDENT WILSON

And Secretary of State Lansing Are Taking Every Means Possible to Secure Full Facts in Regard to the Sinking of the Persia.

THE NATIONALITY OF THE SUBMARINE

That Sank the Persia Has Not Yet Developed, Senator Stone Told the President to Be Prepared to Meet Any Situation That May Arise When the Committee on Foreign Relations Meets Today.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Official announcement that the government will act in the newest phase of the submarine crisis brought on by the sinking of the Persia was made yesterday at the white house.

Secretary Tumulty issued this statement for the president:

"The president and the secretary of state are taking every means possible to obtain the full facts in this grave matter, and will act just as soon as the information is obtained."

In the absence of detailed and specific information on which to base the next step, President Wilson cancelled the cabinet meeting which was to have been held yesterday, but conferred with Chairman Stone and some members of the senate foreign relations committee.

Chairman Stone told the president there were intimations that some senators were preparing to make speeches on the sinking of ships with loss of American life. The president is understood to have simply replied that the administration was doing all it could to protect American rights.

The president instructed Secretary Lansing to bring immediately to the white house any new information which came to hand, and then buried himself reading official dispatches so far received, and getting in touch generally with the situation.

The administration is depending largely on the inquiries Ambassador Penfield has been instructed to make at Vienna and that which consuls are gathering elsewhere, to establish the nationality of the submarine which is said to have sunk the Persia and to develop other facts.

Consul General Skinner, at London, advised the state department, that lists of Persia survivors received there from Alexandria did not include the name of Robert N. McNeely, American consul at Aden.

Eleven survivors, including Lord Montagu, have been landed at Malta, according to advices to the state department from American Consul Kehlenger. His dispatch says seven Indians of the Persia's crew had been found clinging to a damaged open boat by the steamship Hinchow. All the men said the Persia had been torpedoed without warning.

Senator Stone told the President that when the foreign relations committee met today he wanted to be prepared to meet any situation that might arise. The senator said after his talk with the president that until the facts regarding the Persia were obtained, nothing could be done. Any nation, he declared, which outraged the United States should be dealt with severely.

JUSTICE LAMAR DIES IN WASHINGTON.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Arrangements were being completed yesterday for the funeral of Joseph Rucker Lamar, associate justice of the supreme court, who died at his home here of heart failure. He was 58 years old, and had lived one more day would have completed a service of five years on the supreme court bench.

Although Justice Lamar had been ill several months the news of his death came as a great shock to his associates on the bench. Following custom, the court, after meeting yesterday, adjourned immediately in respect to the memory of the late justice.

The burial will be at Augusta, Ga., for many years the home of the late justice. The funeral party, which probably will include his associates on the supreme court bench, will start for Augusta this afternoon.

A SURVIVOR ON BOARD PERSIA

Describes the Sinking. Horrible Scene. Water Black As Ink. Some Passengers Were Screaming, Others Calling Out "Good-Bye," While Those In One of the Boats Sang Hymns.

London, Jan. 5.—Charles Grant, of Boston, one of the two Americans known to have been on board the Persia when she was torpedoed last Thursday, has arrived in Alexandria. Mr. Grant gave to the Associated Press the most detailed account yet received of the disaster.

"I was in the dining saloon of the Persia at 1:03 p. m., he said. "I had just finished my soup, and the steward was asking what I would take for my second course, when a terrific explosion occurred.

"The saloon became filled with smoke, broken glass and steam from the boiler, which appeared to have burst. There was no panic on board. We went on deck as though we were at drill, and reported at the life boats on the starboard side, as the vessel had listed to port. I clung to the railing. The last thing done was to tie on Captain Sprickley's life belt.

"As the vessel was then listing so badly that it was impossible to launch the starboard boats, I slid down the starboard rail into the water. I got caught in a rope which pulled off a shoe, but I broke loose and climbed on some floating wreckage, to which I clung.

"The last I saw of the Persia she had her bow in the air, five minutes after the explosion.

"After floating about on the wreckage until 4 o'clock in the morning I saw five boats. I was pulled into one of them. We rowed about, looking for the other stragglers.

"The boats became overloaded and the occupants were redistributed. Four boats were tied together by their painters, and the fifth followed some distance away.

"My boat left the others in order to search the more frequented steamship channels for help. We rowed for three hours. Then we saw a cruiser and called out: 'We are English.'

"We explained that we were survivors from the Persia and gave directions to the cruiser as to where the other boats were. They were soon found and the occupants were taken off immediately by the English sailors.

"Robert McNeely, American consul at Aden, sat at the same table with me on the voyage. He was not seen probably because his cabin was on the port side.

"It was a horrible scene. The water was black as ink. Some passengers were screaming, others were calling out 'Good-bye.' Those in one boat sang hymns."

BRITISH AND FRENCH DEMAND RETALIATION.

London, Jan. 5.—The continuance of submarine activity in the Mediterranean, which was emphasized by the news of the sinking of the valuable British steamer Glengyle, with the loss of ten lives, has produced a profound impression in all the entente capitals. There is an insistent demand from the public for vigorous measures against the undersea commerce raiders, but the problem is no easy one for the Anglo-French naval staffs.

The Anglo-French press expresses the opinion that some sort of policing of several sections of the intricate Mediterranean coasts and archipelagoes is necessary. Presumably the occupation recently by entente forces of the island of Castellorizo, off the south coast of Asia Minor, was one step in the scheme to provide a more thorough control of the regions where submarine bases are supposed to exist.

The opinion is expressed here that the central powers are likely to plead as justification for the reported failure to give warning to Mediterranean liners that these boats frequently carry a heavy gun for defensive purposes. There seems to be a general impression in the entente capitals that the loss of American life as the result of the sinking of the British steamship Persia must inevitably result in a serious clash between the central allies and the United States.

94 PER CENT OF FAVOR RECO

The County Board of Education Will Act In Those Districts Where N Voted Against the Measure, and

The result of Saturday's election on the compulsory attendance act is reported to County Superintendent Bickley is as follows:

For. Against	
Arcadia	134
Venus	10
Punta Gorda	34
Avon Park	17
Zolfo	21
Wauchula	14
Nocatee	23
Owens	4
Oak Hill—No election	
Lemon Grove—No election	
Bowling Green	3
Fort Green—No election	
Fort Bassenger—No report.	
Brownville	21
Gardner—No report.	
Spring Valley	8
Spring Hill	1
Fort Ogden	11

MINUTES OF THE H OF COUN

The Honorable Board of County Commissioners met in regular session in their office in Arcadia, DeSoto county, Florida, this the 3rd day of January A. D. 1916.

Members present were: L. W. Whitehurst, chairman; John Hagan, W. M. Whitten, W. G. Welles and D. L. Skipper.

The following business was transacted, to wit:

The comptroller is hereby requested to allow C. L. Boggs to at \$20.00 valuation, lots 4 and 5, block 2, town of Gardner. The reason for this request is that the present assessed valuation of \$200 is excessive.

Blazers' report of D. A. and N. S. McLeod of the following road was received, and upon motion duly made seconded and carried, was adopted. Said road is as follows, to wit: Beginning at bridge on Horse Creek near New Zion Baptist church, running by N. S. McLeod's (the Strickland place), thence running a northerly direction to D. A. Nobles, thence in a northeasterly direction to Fort Green Springs, Fla. Notice mailed to N. S. McLeod.

The following resolution was by motion duly made, seconded and carried, adopted, to wit:

Be it Resolved, That it is the sense of this board that in the event Lee county constructs a hard surfaced road on the line between DeSoto county and Lee county for a distance of nine or ten miles in ranges thirty and thirty-one, east, that the road tax hereafter collected from the lands in this county lying south of the Caloosahatchee river within said ranges shall be devoted to the reimbursement of Lee county for one-half the expense incurred in hard surfacing said road.

Pension claim of Mrs. Amanda Peden was submitted to the board, and same was duly approved.

The following contract was entered into with J. W. Farr for hard surfacing roads one to ten inclusive, in Special Road and Bridge District No. 1, to wit:

CONTRACT.

State of Florida, County of DeSoto. This agreement made and completed this the day of January, A. D. 1916, by and between the County of DeSoto acting through and represented by its Board of Commissioners, and hereinafter called the party of the first part, and J. W. Farr, of the County of DeSoto and State of Florida, hereinafter called the party of the second part, witnesseth:

First, That the party of the second part has and does hereby agree and by these presents does agree with the party of the first part at the unit prices and for the considerations named in his proposal at his own cost and expense, to furnish all labor and equipment and to do all the work, and to construct in accordance with the plans and specifications hereinafter particularly designated those certain hard surfaced roads embraced in

ence with prohibition when the wide law, passed by the last legislature, goes into effect. The Arkansas department of the Anti-Saloon League has announced that the league will have workers in the field to see that the law is enforced. Anti-prohibition leaders announce that no fight will be made for the repeal of the law, at least until prohibition has been given a thorough trial. "Bargain Day" in Iowa Saloons. In Iowa "bargain day" sales in the

PETROGRAD REPORTS

Conditions Along the 225-Mile Battle Line From Czartorysk to the Roumanian Frontier As Being Most Favorable to the Czar's Troops.

Petrograd, Jan. 5.—By holding the Teutonic forces on the line of the Vladimir-Volynskiy, on the Galician frontier, while fortifying and pressing forward at some points, the Russians have checked the German attempt to advance from the direction of Kolki and improve their position along the Kovel railway eastward towards Sarny. North of Czartorysk the Russians drove the Germans back and occupied the town of Khriask.

The very fact that the Russians are advancing along the Kovel-Rovno railway is held by military men to be of great importance, since it indicates a concentration with a view of taking Kovel, an important point of communication between the German and the Austrian front. In order to relieve the pressure on the Kovel-Sarny line, the Teutons counter attacked southwest of Kolki, but without result, it is announced here.

On the Galician front, it is stated in reports received in Petrograd, between the rivers Secrethand and Strypa, where the Russian troops had taken up positions, the Muscovites apparently have commenced an offensive and advanced as far as the left bank of the Strypa between Buczacz and Sokolow. The region on the left bank of the Strya is still held against serious attempts of the Austrians to advance. The greatest activity appears now along the Strypa on both sides of Buczacz. Here the Russians have driven the opposing forces back from fifteen to seventeen miles from their positions. It is stated that the Russians continue to hold and to fortify the newly acquired territory, although the battle is still progressing.

The capture of the heights north of Zernowitz, where nearly 900 prisoners were taken, is held by military experts here to be of special importance. They predict that it probably will result in forcing the evacuation of Czernowitz by the Teutonic allies, giving the Russians a strong foothold in the center of Bukovina and control of the railways into Roumania.

The Russian Invalide prints the following regarding the situation:

"The Russian offensive on the long front of 225 miles from Czartorysk to the Roumanian frontier, started when our troops crossed to the left bank of the Strya, taking Khriask, at the foot of the Medezbzhki heights. The Austrians are making every effort to retake these heights, which command the Strya. North of Olka and at Slnno our troops advanced and fortified the occupied region of Usczky, ten miles north of Zale Szezyky, and forced the Austrians to the right bank of the Dniester."

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist church met Tuesday afternoon at the church. In the absence of the president, Mrs. M. H. Smith presided. After a short program the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year:

- President, Mrs. J. P. Hendry.
 - First Vice President, Mrs. H. R. Morley.
 - Second Vice President, Mrs. D. T. Carlton.
 - Superintendent Mission Study, Mrs. J. H. Treadwell.
 - Superintendent Social Service, Mrs. W. L. Scott.
 - Recording Secretary, Mrs. D. G. Barnett.
 - Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. F. S. Gore.
 - Treasurer, Mrs. M. H. Smith.
 - Agent for Voice, Mrs. A. B. Royall.
 - Reporter, Mrs. J. C. Kemp.
- A program committee was appointed, consisting of Mrs. Hendry, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Barnett and Mrs. Kemp, to meet with Mrs. Hendry next Friday afternoon to prepare the program for the ensuing year.

ALL EYES LOOKING TO ARCADIA

Owing to the rapid and substantial growth of our city, we understand that at an early date several enterprises will be located in our midst that will fill a long felt want. Let them come; we want them.

MASS MEETING TO BE HELD

At the Court House Next Tuesday, the 11th, for the Purpose of Formulating Plans to Make the Best Possible Exhibit at the South Florida Fair.

MR. HOWARD CURRY FIELD AGENT

For the Fair will Be Present, and Will Gladly Give All Information Concerning Exhibits. Railroads Have Agreed to Transport All Exhibits To and From Tampa Free of Any Charge.

Mr. Howard Curry, of Tampa, field agent for the South Florida Fair Association, requests that the citizens of the county meet in the court house next Tuesday afternoon, January 11, for the purpose of formulating plans to get together exhibits for the South Florida Fair to be held in Tampa, February 4-11.

We sincerely trust that every person in the county who is interested in having DeSoto county to make the best possible exhibit at this fair will be present at this meeting, and ready to lend a helping hand.

All the railroads have agreed to transport exhibits to and from Tampa free of charge. This liberal concession by the railroads should, and no doubt will, greatly encourage those who desire to make exhibits. Come to this meeting and also tell your friends and neighbors about it; or still better, bring them with you.

REV. TRICE SHOT.

One of the most dastardly crimes ever committed in this section was perpetrated last night about the hour of seven o'clock, when the Rev. J. E. Trice, superintendent of the Baptist Orphanage, of this city, was shot while seated at the supper table with his family.

The assassin was armed with a shot gun loaded with BB shot, and it appears that both barrels must have been fired at Mr. Trice's head at a distance probably not greater than 15 or 20 feet. At this distance and with the gun loaded with so large shot it seems to be a miracle that Mr. Trice was not killed instantly, and it probably would have been fatal had not Mr. Trice slightly lowered his head forward to speak to his daughter just as the shot was fired. Drs. Simmons and McSwain were telephoned for promptly, and when they arrived they found Mr. Trice bleeding profusely, but after a careful examination they concluded that none of the shot had reached a vital spot.

This morning Mr. Trice is resting well, and Dr. Simmons said to a News reporter that there is scarcely a doubt that Mr. Trice will rapidly recover from his wounds.

Soon after the shot was fired the sheriff, the deputies and the police were on the grounds trying to find a clue to the crime. Deputy Sheriff Garner left at once on an eighteen mile ride to Moffitt to get blood hounds. When the dogs were obtained they scented a trail north on the Brownville road for several miles, when it was lost. At this writing no information whatever has been obtained as to who the guilty party is.

The city and community are intensely excited over the affair, and there is a desire in the hearts of all that the scoundrel may be speedily apprehended. The city council assembled this morning in special session at the call of the mayor and offered a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension of the criminal. The order is as follows:

"The council of the city of Arcadia in special session at the call of the mayor, hereby offer a reward of \$1,000 to the person or persons furnishing the evidence for the apprehension, arrest and conviction of the person who committed an assault with a deadly weapon upon the person of Rev. J. E. Trice in this city on the evening of January 3, 1916.

Done and ordered this 4th day of January, 1916."

A large delegation of citizens also went before the board of county commissioners requesting this body to offer a reward. Each member of the board personally favored doing so, but the board would take no action in the matter until they were fully advised as to their legal right to do so.

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